

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 044540

R 191450Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2760

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: NEW INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATION FOR GDR AUTOS

REF: A) STATE 246666; B) BERLIN 2122 C) BERLIN 1871;

D) BERLIN A-237

1. SOME CONFUSION MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM FAILURE TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND OF GDR ACTION FULLY IN REFERENCED MESSAGES. BOTH FRG AND GDR HAVE UNTIL NOW MADE USE OF FORMER REICH'S ADHERENCE TO 1926 MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC CONVENTION AND HAVE USED "D" FOR DEUTSCHLAND TAGS UNDER THAT CONVENTION TO DESIGNATE THEIR VEHICLES IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. GDR HAS NOW FOR FIRST TIME SELECTED ITS OWN DESIGNATOR IN CONNECTION WITH ITS RATIFICATION OF 1968 WORLD HIGHWAY TRAFFIC CONVENTION. THERE ARE NO FRG DESIGNATOR TAGS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN USE IN WEST BERLIN AS SUGGESTED PARA 1 REF A, BUT WERE FRG TO ATTEMPT TO USE SUCH DESIGNATOR FOR WEST BERLIN CARS IN CONNECTION WITH A FUTURE ADHERENCE TO 1968 CONVENTION WE STRONGLY SUSPECT MOVE WOULD DRAW REACTION FROM GDR

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AND SOVIETS.

2. AS POINTED OUT REF B, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT DISAGREE  
WITH DEPARTMENT'S CATEGORIZATION OF DESIGNATOR QUESTION  
AS ESSENTIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER IN ITS OWN RIGHT  
WHICH COULD BE BORNE IN SILENCE BY ALLIES. DECIDING  
FACTOR IN SUGGESTING LOW KEY APPROACH TO SOVIETS WAS  
THAT SOVIETS COULD READ APPROACH AS INDIRECT WARNING  
TO GDR NOT TO PLAY GAMES WITH WEST BERLIN TRAFFIC ON  
BASIS OF ROAD TRAFFIC CONVENTIONS. WHILE WE COULD KEEP  
SILENT AND COMPLAIN ON BAIS OF QA IN EVENT IT DID SO,  
WE BELIEVE PREVENTIVE ACTION IS PREFERABLE.KLEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BERLIN02158  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATION FOR GDR AUTOS  
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